## Mint of the United States at Philadelphra,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, Oct. 1st, 1890.

. An O. C. Bosbyshell Superintensent.

Reference to the object of Mr. Plattis visit to The Mint, about which you have asked me for Luggestion, I have to say; Mr. Pratt wishes to Effect some arrangement ly which unported bars from his orfinery may be never by the must without ormething for assay. These Bars are made from Mexican Delver Com and are of about Standard Junels. The fineuels of Quel bars cannot be acertained from a cutting, by assay, within Even a reasonable degrees of accuracy. Drillings are musleading Even if we were prepared to take Dauples in This manner: The only means Russon to us as

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Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Melting and Refining Department, Philadelphia, October 1, 1890

Hon. O.C. Bosbyshell Superintendent

Sir

Referring to the object of Mr. Platt's visit to the Mint, about which you have asked me for suggestions, I have to say:

Mr. Pratt wished to effect some arrangement by which unparted bars from his refinery may be received by the Mint without smelting for assay. These bars are made from Mexican Silver coin and are of about standard finery. The finery of such bars cannot be ascertained from a cutting, by assay, within even a reasonable degree of accuracy. Drillings are misleading even if we were prepared to take samples in this manner. The only means known to us as reliable in the customary method of taking granulations from the molten metal. Mr. Platt makes his assay from such granulations.

To meet Mr. Platt's wishes and to facilitate his business with the sellers of foreign coin, we should therefore have to do one of two things, viz;

1st: Accept his assay without verification – beyond the slight guide which the examination of a cutting would give. Aside from the doubtful innovation, it may be said that his assays are only reported in whole numbers – and are not definite and sharply defined enough for guide in Ingot making.

2nd: Accept from sellers of Bullion, alleged granulation, which are to accompany the invoice, and are certified to pertain to certain bar numbers.

This was suggested in the conference this morning and if the proper safeguard can be thrown around the proceeds, it may be sustained. But the liability to confusion on the part of the workmen (and subsequent holders) who have as strong incentive to guard the Gov't interest, in taking and accurately transmitting the samples – makes this scheme of doubtful expediency. It should also be borne in mind that considerable time may elapse before these bars are converted into coins, and any error in finery [?] then discovered would be open to dispute, even if not beyond reclamation by lapse of time.

I do not see any way clear therefore, to suggest any way of resisting Mr. Platt's wishes which conforming to the plain requirements of the Mint service.

Respectfully, D.K. Twill M & R